

Clay's Corner

There's a saying I've heard through the years, you've probably heard it, and maybe even said it too, "Love the sinner, hate the sin." I don't question that as being a requirement of anyone who calls themselves Christians. But, I think we have worked ourselves into a problem of sorts without fully understanding what it means to love someone who is living in sin.

Before I go any further, let me make one thing clear, Paul told the members of the church in Rome, in the first verse of the second chapter, that there were those among them acting as judges who were guilty of doing the very same things they were condemning others for doing. I mention that to say this, what I am about to say here, I have been guilty of doing myself. The difference is that I have subsequently repented of my sins and no longer practice those things. So, though I once practiced such things, I do not do so any more, to the very best of my ability.

Now, having said that, Jesus, in Revelation chapter 2, speaks to the church in Thyatira. After praising them for the things they were doing right, He said he had this against them, that they tolerated a certain woman named Jezebel who was teaching and seducing people into practicing sexual sins. The word was, if they didn't do something about her they would suffer the same consequences as she would.

The key word in this passage written to the church in Thyatira is "tolerate". Not everyone among them was practicing what she was teaching. But what I get from this message to Thyatira is, even though some were not practicing what she was teaching, they were tolerating her and the evil spirit that drove her.

We live today in a world that is pushing tolerance. If we don't conform to this teaching of tolerance we will be labeled as intolerant, racist, homophobic, you name the sin, and they've got a label with which to hang on you if you are intolerant of its practice. And because we are afraid of labels and being labeled, and because we don't want to be accused of not being loving, we tolerate. And in the tolerance, we sin and we stand as guilty as those who openly practice such sin.

Now, I said that to say this, being careful to not draw lines in the sand that the Lord didn't and wouldn't draw Himself, we have to decide which side we are on. What are we going to stand for and what are we going to stand against? What battles should we fight? And what battles should we not fight? And more so than that, which spirit should we listen to? The Spirit of God which conquers fear? Or the spirit of fear which limits the spirit of God within us?

"I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols." - Revelation 2:19-20, ESV

Tolerance. The world teaches it. The world demands it. But Jesus said it is DEADLY.

PRAYER LIST

- **Pauline Alvarez** (recovering from knee surgery)
- **Cheryl Anstead and Stormy** (Cheryl Pitts's friends—health)
- **Lauren Babb** (health, recovering from surgery)
- **Larry Barnett** (Jacob White's friend—recovering from bike accident)
- **Brooke Bertling** (Haley Ratliff's friend—breast cancer)
- **Sonny Bransom** (recovering from hip replacement)
- **Fred Bray** (Weavers' friend—health)
- **Dawn Clarke** (Shirley Kuchynka's daughter)
- **Creekside Church of Christ and family of Missy Bevers** (Midlothian, TX)
- **Betty Cox** (Brent Barnick's sister—homebound, rheumatoid arthritis)
- **Eric Davis and Rose**
- **Dixie** (Debbie Faires's mother—Alzheimer's)
- **Bill Ellison**
- **Everett** (Joyce Faires's great-grandson—health)
- **Ben Faires** (Joyce Faires's grandson)
- **Leon Giesecke** (Jan Moerbe's father—throat cancer)
- **Chestly Gobar, Jordyn and Lucy**
- **Tomas Gomez** (Debbie Fougerat's employee—recovering from surgery)
- **Herb Hahn** (health)
- **Eddie Hunt** (Debbie Jalufka's father—Alzheimer's)
- **Sandra Jetton** (health)
- **John Jobe** (Clay and Mary Mason's friend—health, stroke)
- **Debbie Jalufka** (Clay and Mary Mason's friend—health)
- **Edward Jungbauer** (Moerbes' friend—health)
- **Jason, Lizzie and Luke Klinger** (Sarah Weaver's cousins—Luke, 4 mos old, cancer)
- **Guy Lowe** (Clay Mason's friend—health)
- **Jay Mason and family**
- **Emory Meier** (Cheryl Pitts's father—health)
- **Orvan Muelker** (Kathy Winegeart's father—health)
- **Claudia Morris** (Perry Winegeart's sister—health)
- **David Pearson** (Eric Davis's friend—brain tumor)
- **Stacey Placker and Meagan Miller** (Lexi Miller's mother and sister)
- **Junior and Ada Powell** (Sharron Mason's brother-in-law and sister—health, decision-making)
- **Sid Roberts** (Faireses' friend—health)
- **Alex and Tiffany Rodriguez** (Chestly Gobar's friends—Alex suffered stroke)
- **Brycen Rosales** (kindergartner in Shiner—recovering from brain surgery)
- **Ruth** (Joyce Faires's sister-in-law)
- **Jocelyn Seals** (Hallettsville—cancer)
- **David Taylor** (Cody Chrismon's uncle—cancer)
- **Maria Vasquez** (Joyce Faires's neighbor—health)
- **Buddy Watson** (Victoria Johnson's cousin—health)

If you have any announcements or prayer requests you wish to have included in the bulletin or to sign up for weekly e-mail updates, please contact Victoria Johnson: 325-518-9205, victoria@gonzaleschurchofchrist.org.

PRAYER UPDATES

Brycen Rosales is home. He went home last Saturday evening and most of the swelling is gone, and he has very little left-side weakness. He sometimes do too much and become, but other than that, he's back his old self.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2016 VBS: Team P.O.S.S.I.B.L.E.

This year's VBS is June 12-15. Volunteers will meet **today** immediately following morning worship. Please sign up in the foyer if you are able to help.

Church T-Shirts

If you are interested in purchasing a Gonzales Church of Christ t-shirt, please sign up in the foyer. Deadline to order a shirt is **this Wednesday, May 4**.

Mother's Day Breakfast

You're invited to Mother's Day breakfast **next Sunday, May 8, at 9 a.m.** in the church annex.

Senior Sunday

Please join us on **Sunday, May 15** as we honor graduating senior **Tyler Hendershot**. Following our morning worship service, you're invited to lunch in the annex to celebrate Tyler and his accomplishments.

Area-Wide Singing

Elgin Church of Christ is hosting an area-wide singing on **Sunday, May 15 at 5 p.m.** If you plan to attend, please sign up in the foyer so that we may RSVP. Men, if you would like to lead a song, please give your song selection to Victoria and she will send it to the church. Transportation is available.

Bone Marrow Donor Registration Drive

Mark your calendars! In conjunction with Be the Match, we are hosting a bone marrow donor registration drive on **Sunday, May 22 from 12:15-3:15 p.m.** Donors are most needed between the ages of 18-44, but anyone ages 18-60 can join the registry. Please help us get the word out in the surrounding area. More details coming soon!

5th Sunday Fellowship

May has five Sundays, so we will have our special 5th Sunday Fellowship as opposed to our normal fellowship meal in the annex. Please contact Victoria Johnson if you can host the fellowship at your home on **Sunday, May 29**.

Volunteers Needed: Communion Prep

Volunteers are needed to help prepare communion in the coming months. Please sign up on the large bulletin board in the foyer.

Congratulations to **Cody and Kelly (Mason) Burnett** who were married on **Saturday, April 23!**



Volunteers Needed: Wednesday Night Meals

Volunteers are needed to prepare the entrée for meals on Wednesday evenings. Please see Victoria if you have any questions.

Justen Lawrence Memorial Bench

The Gonzales Church of Christ Ladies Class is raising funds to purchase a Kaspar Bench for the churchyard, in memory of our friend, Justen "Sunshine" Lawrence. **Our fundraising goal is \$500!** Checks may be made to: Gonzales Church of Christ, earmarked for "Justen Lawrence—Bench".

Sunday Night Small Group

There is a small group that meets each Sunday evening from 6-7 p.m. in the annex. Everyone is welcome to attend. The Lord's Supper is available for anyone who was unable to partake on Sunday morning.

Tuesday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast

All men are invited to the annex each Tuesday morning at **6:20 a.m.** for a time of breakfast, prayer and fellowship.

Ladies Bible Class

Ladies Bible Class meets **Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the building**. We are continuing our *War Room* Study.

Wednesday Evening Meal & Bible Study

Please join us **this Wednesday at 5:15 p.m.** for dinner in the annex. This week's entrée is spaghetti casserole. Anyone who is able is asked to bring sides to share, but please do not let that be a deterrence to joining us. Classes for all ages follow at 6 p.m.

Service Sunday Projects

Do you need help with a project around your house? Do you need help with meals? Know someone who does? If you or someone you know is unable to complete a project and needs help, sign up in the foyer so we can team up to help on Service Sundays (4th Sundays).

Cherokee Day 2016

You're invited to Cherokee Day 2016 open house and food drive at Cherokee Home for Children on **Saturday, May 7**. There is a BBQ lunch at noon. You're invited to come early or stay after to tour the campus.

YOUTH ZONE



MONDAY, MAY 2
SOFTBALL
REVS @ SHINER, 7 P.M. (FIELD 3)
THURSDAY, MAY 5
TENNIS
DISTRICT TOURNAMENT @ SHINER JR HIGH, 3:30 P.M.
SOFTBALL
REVS V. MOULTON, 7 P.M. (GONZALES FIELD 1)
MARINERS V. DEVIL RAYS, 7:45 P.M. (SHINER FIELD 5)



FRIDAY, MAY 6
TEE BALL
INDIANS V. MOULTON BLUE, 6 P.M. (SHINER FIELD 5)



Hunter Babb—Indians, Shiner Tee Ball
Callie Chrismon—Mariners, Shiner Softball

Jacy Chrismon—Shiner Jr High Tennis
Rea'Anna Flores—REVS, Gonzales Orange Softball
Cassidy Pitts—REVS, Gonzales Orange Softball